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ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Anwarul Chowdhury (Bangladesh), on the basis of informal consultations

Protection against products harmful to health and the environment

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 37/137 of 17 December 1982, 38/149 of 19 December 1983, 39/229 of 18 December 1984 and 44/226 of 22 December 1989, as well Assembly decisions 47/439 of 22 December 1992 and 50/431 of 20 December 1995.

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment,[1] which contains a review of the Consolidated List of Products Whose Consumption and/or Sale have been Banned, Withdrawn, Severely Restricted or not Approved by Governments,

Noting with satisfaction the continued close collaboration between the United Nations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme in the preparation of the Consolidated List,

Taking note of the successful conclusion of the negotiations to develop a legally binding instrument for the application of the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade (Rotterdam Convention),

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[1] A/53/156-E/1998/78.

1. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment[1] and notes the progress being achieved in increasing the number of countries that participate in the preparation of the Consolidated List of Products Whose Consumption and/or Sale have been Banned, Withdrawn, Severely Restricted or not Approved by Governments;

2. Expresses its appreciation for the cooperation extended by Governments in the preparation of the Consolidated List and urges all Governments, in particular those that have not yet done so, to provide the necessary information to relevant organizations for inclusion in future issues of the Consolidated List;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to prepare the Consolidated List focusing on chemicals and pharmaceutical products in alternate years, with the same frequency for each official language in publishing the Consolidated List as envisioned in General Assembly resolutions 39/229 and 44/226;

4. Also requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide the necessary technical assistance to developing countries, at their request, for the establishment and/or strengthening of national capacity for managing hazardous chemicals and pharmaceutical products;

5. Urges the adoption of the agreed text of the Rotterdam Convention at the diplomatic conference to be held in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, on 10 and 11 September 1998 and calls for a speedy ratification by the signatories of the Convention, aimed at its early entry into force;

6. Emphasizes the need to continue to utilize the work being undertaken by relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations in this area, as well as that being carried out under international agreements and conventions in related areas in updating the Consolidated List;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to report every three years, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/229, on the implementation of the present resolution and of previous Assembly resolutions on the same subject.